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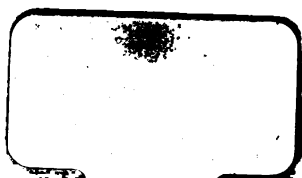
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S. H. 1828.

HYMNS, ✓

CHIEFLY ON THE

PARABLES OF CHRIST.

BY

DAVID EVERARD FORD.

London :

**PUBLISHED BY
WESTLEY AND DAVIS, STATIONERS' COURT.**

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36.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Hymns were chiefly written for a course of sermons, on the parables of Christ, which the author delivered to his congregation at Lymington. Several of those in the second part have already appeared in the COTTAGE MAGAZINE, to which, for many years, he has been a contributor.

The term *parable* is taken by him in a more extensive signification than is generally assigned to it ; but he feels himself justified by the use of the word in the following passages. Luke iv. 23. [Greek.] Mark xiii. 28. Matthew xv, 15. Luke xiv. 7.

He thinks it only justice to himself to state, that he has cautiously avoided the sin of plagiarism. If a line in the forty-ninth page be excepted, he has not intentionally borrowed *one*

from any of his predecessors. Where the contrary appears to be the case, it will probably be found, that the suspected clause is derived from the common property of the whole Christian church—THE ORACLES OF GOD. At the same time, however, that he avoided plàgiarism, he has gladly availed himself of the assistance of the most able commentators, and made it his endeavour to select that interpretation which appeared to himself the most simple and satisfactory.*

If this little work should, in some few instances, profitably assist the meditations of the closet, or the offerings of the domestic altar, its author will be thankful and contented.

LYMINGTON, August 1, 1828.

* He feels great pleasure in acknowledging his obligation to WILLIAMS' COTTAGE BIBLE, a work from which he has derived some information which he had elsewhere sought in vain. It is to this source that he is indebted for the view which he has taken of the parable of the *salted sacrifice*.

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HYMNS.

PART THE FIRST.

ON THE PARABLES OF CHRIST.

1.

THE PEARL.

Matthew xiii. 45, 46.

I.

A PEARL of price immensely great
To faith's admiring view is shown ;—
For ever blessed were my state,
Could I but make that pearl my own.

II.

To gain a treasure so divine,
With all I have I'll gladly part ;
In life—rejoice to call it mine,
And dying—clasp it to my heart.

2.

THE SPURIOUS PLANT.

Matthew xv. 13.

I.

WITHIN the garden of the Lord
Stands many a plant which he disclaims;
Though fair to us—by him abhorr'd,
And growing only for the flames.

II.

Its roots may spread, its branches grow,
Its leaves be green, its blossoms gay ;
But soon, in spite of all its show,
'Tis rooted up, and cast away.

III.

Nor shall the plants of his right hand *
For ever in their place remain ;
A few more years they there may stand,
And then, if sought, they are sought in vain

IV.

Removed from this unfriendly clime,
Those plants of grace are borne away
To bud where brighter sun-beams shine,
And blossom in eternal day.

* Psalm lxxx. 14, 15. Isaiah lx. 21, lxi. 3.

3.

THE RICH MAN.

Luke xii. 16-21.

I.

“PULL down these barns, and larger build,
And there my goods bestow ;
My soul, with ease and plenty fill'd,
No future care shall know.”

II.

So spake, so thought, the foolish man,
But soon his prospects fled ;
God overthrew the well-laid plan,
And thus in vision said ;—

III.

“Thou fool ! this very night, of thee
Thy soul shall be required ;
Then, whose shall all those treasures be
Which thou hast so admired ?”

IV.

Lord ! hence may we a lesson learn
Eternal things to prize ;
And always make our chief concern
A treasure in the skies !

4.

THE SEED GROWING IMPERCEPTIBLY.

Mark iv. 26-29.

I.

REVOLVING seasons still proclaim
The boundless grandeur of thy name,
Almighty Lord ! whose bounteous hand
Showers constant blessings on our land.

II.

The early and the latter rain
Descend to form the future grain ;
And, though the labourer knows not how,
The well-stored barn rewards the plough.

III.

So, when the seed of grace is sown,
Its growth is secret and unknown ;
Till first the blade, and then the ear,
And then the ripening corn appear.

IV.

O, let thy Spirit from above
Descend in showers of sacred love ;
And may the Sun of righteousness
Arise thine heritage to bless !

Then shall the seed thy servants sow,
Beneath thy heavenly influence grow ;
And, though they sleep in death's embrace,
A harvest yield to sovereign grace.

5.

THE NEW CLOTH AND OLD BOTTLES.

Matthew ix. 16, 17.

I.

Our souls admire the tender love
Of Him in whom we trust ;
Who, though he reigns in worlds above,
Remembers we are dust,

II.

No heavier burden will he lay
Than we have power to bear ;
Our strength is equal to our day,
And proves his faithful care,

III.

In every scene of earthly wo
We'll triumph in his grace ;
Till death shall bid us rise and go
To dwell before his face.

6.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Matthew v. 14-16.

I.

WHEN darkness drear and dread
The new-born world o'erspread,
The Lord commanded light to shine ;
He now to human hearts
The light of truth imparts,
And kindles there a flame divine.

II.

In nature's early days,
The world declared his praise,
Ere sin could blight, or death destroy ;
And now, though darkness reigns,
And holds the world in chains,
His children heavenly light enjoy.

III.

They shine, with borrowed rays,
To their Redeemer's praise,
And chase the clouds of sin away ;
The world beholds their light,
Rejoices at the sight,
And hails the dawn of heavenly day.

7.

THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

Matthew v. 13.

I.

As salt preserves the earth,
And keeps the ocean pure,
So Christians prove their heavenly birth,
And heavenly gifts secure.

II.

They labour to extend
The cause of sacred love ;
And in their wise behaviour blend
The serpent with the dove. *

III.

Had ten such righteous men
In Sodom been employ'd,
The ancient cities of the plain
Had never been destroy'd. †

IV.

May we a blessing prove
Wherever we may dwell ;
Proclaim to men redeeming love,
And save their souls from hell !

* *Matthew x. 16.* † *Genesis xviii. 32.*

8.

THE LEAVEN.

Matthew xiii. 33.

I.

DIFFUSE this sacred leaven,
O Lord ! through every breast,
To fit our souls for heaven ;—
And then, divinely blest,
Our principles shall all combine
To prove our hearts for ever thine.

II.

From us, to those around,
Then let its influence spread,
Till all our friends have found
The grace of Him who bled,
And join'd to celebrate His praise
Who saves us by mysterious ways.

III.

Then, through the heathen world
Its wondrous power shall run ;
Sin from its throne be hurl'd,
And God our shield and sun,
Shall chase the darkest clouds away,
And reign in bright millennial day,

9

THE VINEYARD.

Mark xii. 1-9.

I.

LORD of the vineyard ! thee we praise,
And own the justice of thy ways ;
Thy judgments make thy mercy known, *
And spread the triumphs of thy throne. †

II.

In ancient days, in Judah's land,
How beauteous did thy vineyard stand,
Till rage its darkest deed had done,
And slain thy well-beloved Son !

III.

Thy vineyard still its worth retains,
But not in Judah's hand remains ;
The Gentiles now its blessings share,
And realize thy faithful care.

IV.

Then, while they cultivate the soil,
Accept their thanks, and bless their toil ;
Nor let them e'er thy grace abuse,
And sin as did the faithless Jews !

* Psalm ci. 1. † Romans xi. 12.

10.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS.

Luke xvi. 19-31.

I.

THE rich man spent each passing day
In luxury and state,
While Lazarus a beggar lay
Neglected at his gate.

II.

The beggar died, and angels bore
His soul to Abraham's breast ;—
The rich man's death his friends deplore,
And lay his bones to rest.

III.

But ah! no rest his spirit found,
Rack'd with tormenting pain,
Behold! he prays, with doleful sound,
But all his prayers are vain.

IV.

One drop of water all he seeks,
And yet—that drop denied;
While conscience all its vengeance wreaks,
And tells of former pride.

V.

Tremendous King ! whose sovereign sway
Extends to worlds unknown,
Be thou my God, and guide my way,
And claim me for thine own !

VI.

Then, all the things which worldlings prize,
I'll cheerfully resign ;
And all their golden toys despise,
Since Christ and heaven are mine.

11.

THE RICH MAN'S PRAYER.

Luke xvi. 23-31.

I.

THAT dreary world where hope expires,
And all is wild despair,
Once heard, amidst its torturing fires,
The voice of hopeless prayer.

II.

How vain the wish—relief to find
When life's last breath had fled !
Or—send, to brethren left behind,
A message from the dead !

III.

Lord ! teach me now to live to thee,
And then, when time shall cease,
My soul shall thy salvation see,
And leave the world in peace.

12.

THE STRONG MAN.

Luke xi. 21, 22.

I.

THE strong man arm'd securely dwells,
Until some stronger foe
The tyrant from his house expels,
And lays his glory low.

II.

So Satan reigns in human minds
Till Christ admission gains,
And power divine the tyrant binds
In everlasting chains.

III.

Redeemer ! dwell within my breast,
Thy sovereign power display ;
And that which Satan once possess'd
Shall own thy righteous sway.

13.

THE TREASURE.

Matthew xiii. 44.

I.

WITHIN the field of truth divine
A hidden treasure lies ;
A rich, immense, exhaustless mine,
Conceal'd from mortal eyes.

II.

Though thousands pass along that way,
It never meets their view ;
In carelessness and sloth they stray,
Or worldly gains pursue.

III.

But when a beam of heavenly light
Irradiates the soul,
This treasure meets the astonish'd sight,
And faith enjoys the whole.

IV.

O Lord, to thee I bend the knee,
Since earthly things are vain,
Impart that heavenly light to me,—
Let me this treasure gain !

14.

THE SOWER.

Mark iv. 3-9. 14-20.

I.

THE word of heavenly truth is thine,
Thou Saviour of mankind !
But powers of earth and hell combine
To drive it from the mind.

II.

While many hear its outward call,
And some with hopeful joy,
But few are found, amongst them all,
Who make it their employ.

III.

Entwined in Satan's deadly snares,
They slight eternal truth ;
And risk their souls—for worldly cares,
Or sins of thoughtless youth.

IV.

So—seed that falls on barren land,
Or on some thorny soil,
Shall never fill the reaper's hand,
Nor recompense his toil.

V

Prepare our hearts by sovereign grace,
That we, with faith divine,
The word of life may now embrace,
And be for ever thine !

15.

THE UNJUST STEWARD.

Luke xvi. 1-11.

I.

SHALL men of hearts and lives profane
Risk all they have for worldly gain ?
Can they, to serve their desperate ends,
Betray their best and dearest friends ?

II.

Then let no act of duty be
A sacrifice too great for me !
All that I have, O Lord ! is thine,
Nor would I wish to call it mine.

III.

Whate'er thy providence bestows—
I'll own the fountain whence it flows ;
And in the fear of God possess
The mammon of unrighteousness. *

* This expression in the text is merely a Hebraism for *worldly property*.

16.

THE STRAIT GATE.

Luke xiii. 24-30.

I.

AT mercy's gate I stand
Invited, Lord ! by thee ;
Thy promise—thine express command,
Affords mine only plea.
Hast thou not bid me, Lord !
To knock, and entrance gain ?
I come—encouraged by thy word,
Nor shall I knock in vain. *

II.

While others sport away
Their mortal lives in sin,
Teach me, O Lord, in this my day, †
To *strive* to enter in !
Then, when the door shall close,
And the last tempest rise,
My weary soul shall find repose,
Nor dread the angry skies. ‡

* Matthew vii. 7, 8, † Luke xix. 41, 42. ‡ Isaiah xvi. 20, 21.

17.

THE SERPENT.

John iii. 14-16,

I.

WHEN Moses a serpent of brass
Display'd, by command of the Lord,
The promise was soon brought to pass—
That health should again be restored.
Those bitten by serpents before
Were quickly forgetful of pain ;
The venom had lost all its power,
And life thrill'd through every vein. *

II.

A serpent, more deadly, now spreads
Disease and contagion around ;
But mercy a lenitive sheds,
A cure for the dying is found ;
The wretch, that lies gasping for breath,
On Calvary fixes his eyes,
And rescued from pain and from death,
The venomous serpent defies.

* Numbers xxi. 4-9.

18.

THE CHILDREN OF THE BRIDE-
CHAMBER.

Matthew ix. 15.

I.

OUR days of fasting now are come,
The bridegroom has withdrawn ;
And, exiles from our heavenly home,
We wander here forlorn.

II.

No wholesome fruits the desert yields,
Its fountains all are dry ;
No limpid streams, nor verdant fields,
Refresh the pilgrim's eye.

III.

The path, to our divine abode,
Lies o'er the burning sand ;
But still we tread this weary road,
And seek the promised land.

IV.

Our Lord himself is gone before
To find us mansions there ; *
Then, when this pilgrimage is o'er ,
Farewell to pain and care !

* John xiv. 2.

V.

A few more weary steps remain,
A few more sighs and tears ;
And then, our happy home we gain,
And smile at all our fears.

19.

THE CHILDREN IN THE MARKET-
PLACE.

Matthew xi. 16-19.

I.

JEHOVAH to the world proclaims
A sovereign balm for human grief ;
But thankless man pretences frames
To justify his unbelief.

II.

'Twas thus in ancient days, the Jews
Rejected John and Jesus too ;
And many still the Lord refuse,
And strive to prove his word untrue.

III.

O God, thy sovereign power display,
And turn the hearts of men to thee ;
Bid stubborn souls thy truth obey,
And let the world thy glory see !

20.

THE LIGHTNING.

Matthew xxiv. 27.

I.

As lightning shines from east to west,
And rends the vail of deepest night,
So shall the thoughts of every breast,
And darkest crimes, be brought to light,

II.

The guilty dead, with strange surprise,
Shall feel the pulse of life return ;
And from their opening graves arise,
Their awful destiny to learn.

III.

Enthroned on clouds, the Judge shall come,
And lightning-glances, from his eye,
Shall strike the trembling sinner dumb
Who longs for death, but cannot die.

IV.

Bold infidels, in wild despair,
Before the angry Lamb shall fall ;
While lips, that never breathed a prayer,
To rocks and mountains vainly call,*

* Revelation vi. 15-17.

V.

But saints shall then with triumph rise,
And clothed in robes of spotless white,
Ascend amidst the blazing skies,
Nor shrink from uncreated light.

VI.

May heavenly grace prepare my soul
To view the terrors of that day !
Then, when its loudest thunders roll,
I'll meet my Judge without dismay.

21.

THE FOUNTAIN,

John iv. 14-15.

I.

How shallow, at best, are the springs
Of comfort, affection, and joy;
That rise from terrestrial things
Which even a breath may destroy !
Uncertainty shadows them all,
And death marks them out for its prey;
Like leaves in the autumn that fall,
Or flowerets that bloom for a day.

II.

The boasted resources of earth,
In times of adversity, fail ;
And vain is the language of mirth,
When feelings of sorrow prevail.
But happy the man that can say,
And call on his soul to record ;—
“ He gave, and he taketh away :
Adored be the name of the Lord !”

III.

From the presence of Jesus may rise
A fountain of pleasures unknown ;
A spring, which the sun never dries,
Flows down from his heavenly throne,
This water, Lord ! give us to drink,
’Twill heal all our grief and our pain ;
For ever we’ll dwell on its brink,
And never be thirsty again.

22.

THE DEMONIAK.

Matthew xii. 43-45.

I.

By nature, Lord ! was I
A wretched slave of sin—
To everlasting ruin nigh,
For Satan dwelt within.

II.

The tyrant now has fled,
Or wandered from his home ;
Around me thy protection spread,
And claim me for thine own !

III.

O, let this residence,
Which once was his abode,
Become thy dwelling-place, and hence
A temple fit for God !

IV.

Then, should the fiend return
With seven-fold power from hell,
His maddening rage in vain shall burn,
If God within me dwell.

23.

THE WIDOW.

Luke xviii. 1-5.

I.

HENCE may we learn, O Lord !
To pray and never faint ;
Assured, that thou wilt hear,
And answer our complaint ;—
That, though thy love may long delay,
We still may hope, and still may pray.

II.

The unjust judge was brought
To hear the widow's prayer ;
And, though his hardened heart
Might drive her to despair,
At length to plead her cause began,
Although he fear'd not God nor man.

III.

And shall not God avenge
His own elect who cry ?
Shall they in bondage mourn,
And he their prayer deny ?
He *will* avenge their grievous wrongs,
And change their groans to cheerful songs.

24.

THE SEPULCHRES.

Matthew xxiii. 27, 28.

I.

KEEP me, O Lord ! O keep me free,
From guilt and from hypocrisy ;
And let my heart and conscience feel
The flame of pure devoted zeal !

II.

The scribes and Pharisees were known
By ceremonial rites alone ;
Perverse and blind, they never saw
The weightier matters of the law.

III.

So whited sepulchres appear
To those who pass them—clean and fair ;
But, form'd without—of polish'd stones,
Within—are fill'd with dead men's bones.

IV.

Lord, sanctify my inmost soul,
My powers and passions all control ;
And let my life, to men impart,
A faithful index of my heart !

25.

THE WHEAT AND THE TARES. *

Matthew xiii. 24-30. 36-43.

I.

WHILE distant spheres, Almighty Lord !
 Thy praise and glory tell,
 In mercy dost thou still regard
 The globe on which we dwell.

II.

This is the field in which is sown
 The seed of grace divine;
 That seed belongs to thee alone,
 Its produce all is thine.

III.

Yet, while thy servants watch around,
 And mark the springing blade,
 Lo! tares appear through all the ground,
 And spread their baneful shade.

IV.

They cannot be uprooted now,
 So much like wheat they seem ;
 At present, both together grow,
 And share the vital beam. †

* "*Tares*."—*ζιζάνια*.—A species of darnel, which in the first stages of its growth, so closely resembles wheat as to be hardly distinguishable from it. † Matthew v. 45.

V.

But when the harvest day shall come—
That day of long desire,
The wheat shall all be gather'd home,
The tares—to quenchless fire.

26.

THE BUILDER.

Luke xiv, 25-30,

I.

THIS heart, O Lord, is thine,
Thine let it ever be!
All other claims I here resign,
To serve and follow thee.

II.

Accept the sacrifice,
The worthless gift approve ;
Nor let affection's tenderest ties
My resolution move !

III.

Supported by thy grace,
I'll bear my Saviour's cross ;
And while I view thy smiling face,
Count earthly things but loss.

27.

THE FRUITS.

Matthew vii. 15-20.

I.

ALMIGHTY God! we bow before thy throne,
And there, with shame, our sins and follies own;
Ten thousand sins and follies all conspire
To doom our guilty souls to everlasting fire.

II.

We here confess the justice of thy claim
That all our works should glorify thy name—
Should prove, to all the world, our faith sincere,
And as the peaceful fruits of righteousness appear.

III.

If we were doom'd to everlasting fire,
Angelic hosts thy JUSTICE would admire;
But MERCY, Lord! like thine, can reach our
case,
And bid us yet rejoice in renovating grace.

IV.

Redeem'd from death, by thine almighty power,
To thee we'll dedicate each passing hour;
Then, by our works, the world our faith shall
know,
Since neither grapes on thorns, nor figs on this-
tles grow.

28.

THE TWO FOUNDATIONS.

Matthew vii. 24-27.

I.

THE man that hears thy sayings, Lord!
And dedicates his life to thee,
In trials shall thy love record,
In dangers—thy salvation see.

II.

The rain descends, the floods arise,
The billows break with threatening shock;
His house the raging storm defies,
It stands upon the solid rock.

III.

Not so the man that hears thy word,
But hears that word to no avail;
His faith is vain, his hope—absurd,
In time of danger both shall fail.

IV.

Deep unto deep, in thunder, calls,
The billows foam along the strand;
His house before the tempest falls,
’Twas only built upon the sand.

29.

THE SERVANT.

Luke xvii. 7-10.

I.

LORD! I own thy rightful claim,
All my services are thine ;
May I hail reproach and shame,
Pleas'd with labour so divine !

II

Since I have this work begun,
Grant me persevering grace!
And—when I have all things done—
Thine alone shall be the praise.

30.

THE MARRIAGE FEAST AND WED-
DING GARMENT.

Matthew xxii. 8-11.

I

THE King of heaven a feast prepares,
And bids the poor draw nigh ;
Each humble guest his bounty shares,
And finds a full supply.

II.

The poorest and the most forlorn
May round the board be seen ;
Salvation can their souls adorn
In raiment white and clean.*

III.

Ere long, the King shall come to see
The objects of his care ;
In that important hour, may we
This wedding garment wear !

31.

THE SOURCE OF POLLUTION.

Matthew xv. 19, 20.

I.

MAY the word of truth divine
Cleanse this sinful heart of mine,
Every evil thought expel,
And within me ever dwell !

II.

Thus from all pollution free,
May I live, O God, to thee ;
And when I my work have done,
Find acceptance through thy Son !

* Isaiah lxi. 10. Revelation iii. 5. xix. 8.

32.

THE WATCHFUL SERVANTS.

Luke xii. 33-40.

I.

VAIN is all terrestrial pleasure,
Mix'd with dross the purest gold ;
Seek we then a heavenly treasure—
Stored in bags which wax not old.
Let our best affections centre
On the things around the throne ;
There no thief can ever enter,
Moth and rust are never known.

II.

Earthly joys no longer please us,
Here would we renounce them all,
Seek our only rest in Jesus—
Him our Lord and Master call.
Faith, our languid spirits cheering,
Points to brighter worlds above,
Bids us look for his appearing—
Bids us triumph in his love.

III.

May our lights be always burning,
And our loins be girded round,
Waiting for our Lord returning—
Longing for the welcome sound !
Thus the Christian life adorning,
Never will we be afraid ;
Should he come at night, or morning—
Early dawn, or evening shade.

33.

THE VINE.

John xv. 1-8.

I.

JESUS is the living vine,
Round him we, like branches, twine ;
He can us with life supply,
But—if torn from Him—we die.

II.

While the branch in Him remains,
He its life and health sustains ;
Every branch to Him—the root,
Owes its verdure and its fruit.

34.

THE BARREN FIG TREE.

Luke xiii. 6-9.

I.

“ No longer let that tree remain
Whereon no fruit is found ;
These three years have I come in vain—
Why cumbereth it the ground ? ”

II.

’Twas thus indignant JUSTICE spoke,
But MERCY intercedes,
And to delay the threatening stroke,
In mildest accents pleads ;—

III.

“ Lord ! spare it yet another year,
Till time my labour crown ;
But, if no wholesome fruit appear,
Then thou shalt cut it down.”

IV.

This fig tree represents my state,
Long have I fruitless proved ;
Had not thy patience, Lord ! been great,
I must have been removed,

V.

But, spared another year to see,
And cultured by thy grace—
O, let me henceforth yield to thee
The fruits of righteousness.

35.

THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN.

Luke xviii. 9-14.

I.

BEFORE the throne of heavenly grace,
I bow with penitential shame,
Unworthy, Lord! to see thy face,
Or mention thy tremendous name.

II.

Not one amongst my thousand deeds
Can bear the inquest of thine eye;*
But still, my soul for mercy pleads,
For thou canst hear the contrite sigh.

III.

Let others their own virtues name,
Like the vain-glorious Pharisee;
I, with the Publican, exclaim—
“O God, be merciful to me!”

† Job ix. 3.

36.

THE THREE LOAVES.

Luke xi. 5-12.

I.

SINCE importunity succeeds
Where even friendship fails,
The man who with Jehovah pleads,
By faith prevails.

II.

The noblest blessings God bestows
Result from fervent prayer ;
The heart whence pure devotion flows,
Will not despair.

III.

As children to their parents go,
And find their wants supplied ;
God will for us compassion show,
And grace provide.

IV.

Then let us hasten to his throne
In every time of need ;
Encouraged by his word alone—
We must succeed.

37.

THE HOUSEHOLDER.

Matthew xiii. 52.

I.

ETERNAL God ! thy vast domain
Proclaims the blessings of thy reign ;
The starry heavens thy wonders tell,
And angel-harps thy triumphs swell.

II.

Unnumbered worlds thy bounty share,
And prove thy faithfulness and care ;
But, to our vile and helpless race,
Belong the blessings of thy grace.

III.

By holy bards, in times of old,
Those heavenly blessings were foretold ;
And, in these latter days, thy Son
Completes the work he then begun.

IV.

Thy servants still, divinely taught,
Proclaim the wonders thou hast wrought ;
With holy zeal their work pursue,
And bring forth treasures old and new.

38.

THE RESURRECTION.

John v. 24-28.

I.

ETERNAL life shall they receive
Who on the Son of God believe—
Redeem'd by him they cannot die ;
That power which renovates the soul
Shall all their principles control,
And all their future wants supply.

II.

We hail, with joy, the promis'd hour,
The nations feel His vital power,
Though dead in trespasses and sins ;
For when they hear the Saviour's voice,
The dying and the dead rejoice—
Their everlasting life begins.

III.

That sovereign voice again shall sound,
Shall rend the skies, and cleave the ground,
And bid the slumbering nations rise ;
The righteous and the guilty dead,
O'erwhelm'd with joy, or awful dread,
Shall view that scene with strange surprise.

IV.

May we the Son of God believe,
And everlasting life receive,
Before the dawning of that day !
Arrayed in righteousness divine,
Our ransom'd spirits then shall shine,
When heaven and earth shall pass away.

39.

THE DOOR OF THE SHEEPFOLD.

John x. 1-10.

I.

JESUS is the only door,
All that ever came before
(Thieves and robbers seeking prey
Climbing up some other way—
Treacherous guides designing ill)
Only came to steal and kill.

II.

He appear'd to end the strife,
Guard the fold and give us life :
All the shepherds we obey
Enter this the only way ;
We , the sheep, attend their voice,
And beneath their care rejoice.

40.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

John x. 11-15. 27, 28.

I.

Good Shepherd of Israel ! thou
Didst lay down thy life for thy sheep ;
Nor hast thou forsaken them now,
Thou still dost thine heritage keep.

II.

Our souls we commend to thy care,
From wolves and from strangers we flee ;
But safety and plenty we share,
Protected and guided by thee.

III.

Thy favour is all our delight,
Our confidence rests on thy love ;
The rod of thy mercy and might
Shall guide us to pastures above.

IV.

In safety we ever shall dwell,
The voice of our Shepherd we know ;
And he that redeem'd us from hell
Shall life everlasting bestow.

41.

THE PRODIGAL SON,

Luke xv. 11-17.

I.

RETURN, poor prodigal ! return,
Though thou hast wandered far away ;
Compassion can thy grief discern,
Thy flowing tears that grief betray.

II.

Thy search for happiness is vain,
In disappointment now it ends ;
Thy broken heart may well complain
The falsehood of its former friends,

III.

In days of plenteousness, they came,
And made thy substance all their own ;
But now, in poverty and shame
They leave their friend to mourn alone.

IV.

Return, poor prodigal ! return,
And leave those husks for swine to eat ;
A Father's love thou yet may'st learn,
Go—cast thyself before his feet.

42.

THE ROCK.

Matthew xvi. 13.

I.

ZION in her King rejoices,
There our souls securely dwell ;
While her sons, with cheerful voices,
Triumph o'er the gates of hell.
Resting on a sure foundation,
Built upon the solid rock,
Zion, city of salvation,
Braves the tempest's rudest shock.

II.

Earth and hell may form alliance,
Still their efforts are in vain ;
Zion bids them both defiance,
All her bulwarks safe remain.
Time and death, their course pursuing,
Here are neither felt nor known,
While our souls, their youth renewing,
Find their strength in God alone.

III.

Hark ! the full angelic chorus
Tells the universe—'TIS DONE ;
All our foes fall down before us,
We the victor's palm have won.
Raise we then our cheerful voices,
Sing, in high seraphic strains—
HELL IS VANQUISH'D, HEAVEN REJOICES,
ZION'S KING FOR EVER REIGNS.

43.

THE EUCHARIST.

Matthew xxvi. 26-28,

I.

AROUND the table of the Lord
Our grateful songs his love record ;
For all our hopes and comforts rise
From his atoning sacrifice.

II.

Our spirits feast on heavenly bread,
And drink the blood which Jesus shed ; *
By faith, our blessed Lord we see,
And each exclaims—" He died for *me*."

* John vi. 53.

44.

THE NET.

Matthew xiii. 47-50.

I.

As when a net is drawn to shore,
Without the least delay,
The useful things are laid in store,
The worthless—thrown away ;—

II.

So—when the angels separate
The wicked from the just,
Their condemnation shall be great
Who made not God their trust.

III.

Almighty God, prepare my soul
For that tremendous day !
I'll gladly bow to thy control,
And own thy sovereign sway.

IV.

My guilt remove, my doubts dispel,
And when this world shall cease,
May I, redeem'd from sin and hell,
Be found of thee in peace !

45.

THE TWO DEBTORS.

Luke vii. 40-43.

I.

UNBOUNDED love I owe
To Thee, the sinner's friend,
Who didst to me such mercy show,
Such sovereign grace extend.

II.

Thou hast forgiven a debt
Which I could never pay ;
Let not my soul her vows forget,
Nor let my zeal decay !

III.

Long as I live, I'll tell
The love of Him who died
To ransom guilty souls from hell—
And heavenly thrones provide.

IV.

And when, at death I rise,
Diviner bliss to share,
All heaven will see, with new surprise,
The chief of sinners there.

46.

THE MUSTARD-SEED.

Matthew xiii. 31, 32.

I.

A GRAIN of mustard-seed, if sown,
Although it seems so small a thing,
Will spread its branches wide, when grown,
And shelter birds of every wing.

II.

So shall the germ of heavenly grace
A covert from the storm be made,
And weary spirits find a place
Of sweet repose beneath its shade,

47.

THE LABOURERS.

Matthew xx. 1-16.

I.

ADMIT us to thy vineyard, Lord !
Unworthy though we be ;
And thankful for the least reward,
There will we work for thee.

II.

The heat and burden of the day,
At thy command we'll bear ;
Thy bounty will our toil repay,
And well reward our care.

III.

If we that recompence obtain,
Contented will we be ;
Nor murmur, though the *latest* gain
The same reward as we.

48.

THE HARVEST.

Luke x. 2.

I.

THE harvest, Lord ! is great,
The labourers are few ;
We therefore at thy footstool wait,
And there our prayer renew.

II.

O, send thy servants forth,
And bid the nations come,
Till all the tenants of the earth
In Zion find their home !

49.

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS.

Matthew xxv. 31-40.

I.

THE Son of man, with glory crowned,
Shall come in heavenly state,
While, at his bidding, gather round .
The dead—both small and great.

II.

His awful penetrating look
Their final doom denotes,
As when a shepherd, with his crook—
Divides the sheep from goats.

III.

To those that stand on his right hand
The righteous King shall say—
“Ye blessed ! to my Father’s land,
In triumph—come away.”

IV.

“For when in hunger and distress
Ye shared my shame and grief,
While to the meanest child of grace
Your bounty gave relief.”

V.

“ Each act of kindness shown to me
Shall meet its full reward ;
Now shall my faithful servants see
The glory of their Lord.”

VI.

Amidst the world's reproach and scorn,
Undaunted may we stand ;
And when that awful day shall dawn—
Be found at thy right hand !

50.

THE WARRIOR.

Luke xiv. 31-33.

I.

INNUMERABLE hosts
Our weakened camp assail ;
The foe—of speedy victory boasts,
And our resources fail.

II.

O Lord, to thee we flee,
All power, but thine, is vain ;
Vouchsafe thy gracious aid—till we
Immortal conquest gain !

III.

In our encampment dwell,
And we will never yield—
Till all the hosts of earth and hell
Are driven from the field.

IV.

Our victory complete,
We'll lay our armour down
In triumph—at our Captain's feet,
And gain a heavenly crown.

51.

THE BREAD OF LIFE.

John vi. 48-50.

I.

THE bread of life from heaven descends,
Ye hungry souls draw nigh !
The bounty that Jehovah sends
Will all your need supply.

II.

The fathers, who on manna fed,
Expired like those before ;
But he that eats this heavenly bread—
Shall live for evermore.

52.

THE INSOLVENT DEBTOR.

Matthew xviii. 23-35.

I.

To God a debt we owe
Which we can never pay ;
Our consciences its justice know,
And vainly plead delay.

II.

His claims we cannot meet,
But when our spirits fall,
O'erwhelmed with shame, before his feet,
He freely pardons all.

III.

Forgive we freely then—
As we have been forgiven !
And feelings of revengeful men
Far from our souls be driven !

IV.

Thy sovereign grace impart,
With energy divine !
And shed abroad in every heart,
A spirit, Lord, like thine !

53.

THE LOST SHEEP.

Luke xv. 2-7.

I.

IF one amongst an hundred sheep
Is lost, or goes astray,
Through many a vale—o'er many a steep,
The shepherd bends his way ;—

II.

And when the fugitive is found,
He brings it home with care,
While all his friends and neighbours round
His satisfaction share.

III.

So angels triumph with their Lord,
When sinners of our race,
From paths of ruin are restored,
And feel his sovereign grace.

IV.

O Lord, on our behalf appear,
Proclaim our guilt forgiven ;
And let each penitential tear
Occasion joy in heaven !

54.

THE SAMARITAN.

Luke x. 25-37.

I.

IN passing through this world of wo,
May I those Christian virtues show,
Which find their own appropriate sphere
Where scenes of wretchedness appear !

II.

Redeem'd by everlasting grace,
May I thy sacred footsteps trace ;
And let my constant pattern be
Thy vast benevolence to me !

55.

THE SALTED SACRIFICE.

Mark ix. 43-50.

I.

THY judgments, Lord ! declare
How awful is thy name ;
Thine indignation who can bear,
Or dwell in quenchless flame !

II.

But can a wretch like me
Escape from endless death ?
Then let me consecrate to thee
My heart, my life, my breath

III.

My drooping faith uphold,
My soul with love inspire;—
As every sacrifice, of old,
Was *salted* for the fire.

56.

THE MOUNTAIN.

Matthew xvii. 20.

I.

VICTORIOUS faith, that grace divine,
Exerts amazing power ;
It bids immortal glory shine—
And tempests cease to lour.

II.

Commanded by its mighty voice,
The mountains hence depart ;
It bids the mourning soul rejoice—
And gladness fills the heart.

57.

THE ADVERSARY.

Matthew v. 25, 26.

I.

My trembling soul must soon appear
Before the judgment seat ;
O Lord ! with penitence sincere,
I worship at thy feet :

II.

May I be reconciled to thee
While I am on the way !
Redeeming grace is all my plea,
Redeeming grace display !

58.

THE NEEDLE.

Matthew xix. 23-26,

I.

Is wealth a golden chain
That binds the soul to earth ?
No more of poverty complain,
Ye heirs of heavenly birth !

61.

THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND.

Matthew xv. 14.

I.

MAY all who teach the way of peace
Divine illumination share,
And guide to everlasting bliss
The souls committed to their care!

II.

Then, while the blind who lead the blind
In paths of dangerous error stray,
Thy universal church shall find
In Jesus—Heaven's appointed way.*

62.

THE GREAT SUPPER.

Luke xiv. 16-24.

I.

THE voice of heavenly mercy sounds abroad,
And tells the world the goodness of the Lord—
Who spreads a feast, and bids poor outcasts go
To share his bounty and forget their wo.

* John xiv. 6.

II.

The men for whom his table first was spread
Despised the invitation, and are dead ; *
And now the poor, the maim'd, the halt, the
 blind,
May enter in, and free admission find.

III.

There yet is room ; though thousands throng
 the board,
Exhaustless stores his bounty will afford ;
Should the whole human race the call obey,
The Master will not send one soul away.

IV.

The sovereign grace of our exalted King
The helpless sons of misery shall sing ;
And while, to crown the feast, Himself appears,
Forget their sorrows, and dismiss their fears.

V.

Behold the table spread—the fatlings slain,
Let not the invitation sound in vain ;
The gracious call embrace without delay,
All things are ready now,—then come away.

* Matthew xxii. 7.

68.

THE TWO SONS.

Matthew xxi. 28-32.

I.

FATHER ! with compassion mild,
Look on thy rebellious child ;
Heavenly mercy dwells with thee,
Let that mercy pardon me !

II.

Justly might my broken vows
All thine indignation rouse ;
Justly might thy rising ire
Banish me to quenchless fire.

III.

I have been rebellious still,
Though I knew my Father's will ;
And have spurn'd thy righteous sway,
Though I promised to obey.

IV.

Father ! with compassion mild,
Look on thine unworthy child ;
Bid him venture near thy throne,
Saved by sovereign grace alone !

64.

THE WEATHER.

Matthew xvi. 1-3.

I.

BEHOLDING the signs of the times,
We raise to Jehovah our song ;
His mercy, in famishing climes,
Pours streams of salvation along.*
They flow through this desolate vale,
They bid all the wilderness bloom,
And the haunts of the dragon assail—
Converting his den to his tomb. †

II.

The watchman, who waits for the day,
Proclaims that its dawning is near ; ‡
The blush of its earliest ray
Already has gladden'd our sphere :
And soon shall the day-spring arise,
Commanding the shadows to flee,—
While beaming through halcyon skies,
All nations its glory shall see.

* Isaiah xlv. 3. † Isaiah xxiv. 7. ‡ Isaiah xxi.

65.

THE STONE.

Matthew xxi. 42-44.

I.

OUR souls, O Lord ! with joy survey
Thy power in Zion shown ;
That, which the builders cast away,
Is made the corner stone.

II.

High in the temple thou hast rear'd
The beauteous object stands ;
By all who worship there revered,
And seen in distant lands. *

66.

THE PIECE OF SILVER.

Luke xv. 8-10.

I.

IF for a piece of silver lost
Such persevering search be made,—
With zeal which nothing can exhaust
May we the cause of missions aid !

* Isaiah ii. 2.

II.

We'll seek a ruined world to bring
Again to happiness and God,
Till truth and righteousness shall spring
Wherever human foot hath trod. *

III.

The treasures of the globe belong
To Him who hung upon the cross ;
And while we make his love our song,
We count all other things but loss. †

67.

THE TALENTS.

Matthew xxv. 14-30.

I.

WHATEVER may be our success,
Our gains are not our own ;
The various talents we possess
Belong to God alone.

II.

May we, devoted to his fear,
Our several gifts employ ;
And when the Master shall appear—
Yield our accounts with joy !

* Psalm lxxxv. 11. † Philippians iii. 8.

68.

THE FIG TREE.

Mark, xiii. 28, 29.

I.

THE fig tree's tender leaves
Proclaim the summer nigh ;—
So faith, with sacred joy, perceives
The day-spring from on high.

II.

The winter flees away,
And smiling spring returns ;
While every heart, that feels the ray,
With sacred rapture burns.

III.

The plants of righteousness
Their sweetest perfume yield ;
And all, who pass that way, confess
That God hath blest the field.

END OF THE FIRST PART,

HYMNS,

PART THE SECOND.

ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

I.

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

Hebrews xii. 18-25.

I.

WE are not come to Sinai's mount
That might be touch'd, but burn'd with fire ;
No thunders here our crimes recount,
And bid the trembling crowd retire.*

II.

But to mount Sion we are come—
The city of the living God—
The heavenly Jerusalem—
Where countless angels wait his nod.

* Exodus xx. 18.

III.

The general assembly there
In bonds of holy union meet,
The praise of God, their Judge, declare,
And cast their crowns before his feet.

IV.

There Christ, the Mediator stands,
Who seal'd the covenant with blood,
Whose pierced side, whose wounded hands,
Pour'd forth the sin-atonement flood.

V.

His sacred blood speaks better things
Than that which flow'd when Abel died ;
This vital stream salvation brings,
While *that*, to heaven for vengeance cried.

VI.

Then let us hearken to the voice
Which now proclaims redemption nigh ;
That sound may make our hearts rejoice,
But—if we turn away—we die.

2.

THE GENTLENESS AND COMPASSION
OF CHRIST.

Matthew xii. 19-21.

I.

MESSIAH to the world declares
His heavenly Father's will ;
And though a servant's form he wears,
Appears for judgment still.

II.

Yet shall he neither strive, nor cry,
Nor let his anger rise ;
He listens when the contrite sigh,
Nor will their prayer despise.

III.

His heart, in all our times of need,
Compassion never lacks ;
He will not break the bruised reed,
Nor quench the smoking flax.

IV.

Our proudest foes he puts to shame,
And vindicates the just ;
He ever lives, and in his name
The Gentile world shall trust.

3.

'When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.'

Luke xxii. 32.

I.

My hopes were but few,
And many my fears ;
My comforts withdrew,
And left me in tears ;
The tempter assail'd me,
And darkness o'erspread ;
Resources quite fail'd me,
My courage all fled.

II.

Well nigh to despair,
I call'd on the Lord ;
(His love I'll declare,
His goodness record ;)
His mercy retaining,
He pitied my grief ;
He heard me complaining,
And brought me relief.

III.

Then—trust him ye saints,
And hope in his love ;
He'll hear your complaints,
Your sorrows remove ;
If, under their pressure,
You only *believe*,
His grace, without measure,
Your souls shall receive.

IV.

In all my distress
To Him I repair ;
Sustain'd by his grace,
I all things can bear ;
Amidst tribulation
His praises I sing,
Ascribing salvation
To Jesus my King,

4.

'He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down.'

Job xiv. 2.

I.

WHILE rolling years, with rapid pace,
In quick succession urge their race,
(Eternity the goal ;)
Although they have no voice nor speech,
With powerful eloquence they preach
The value of the soul.

II.

As flowers lie scatter'd through the field,
And powerless—to the mower yield
Their sweetly fragrant forms ;
So—man, proud man, resigns his breath,
And unresisting, falls in death,
A prey to dust and worms.

III.

Yet, on this dark and dreary scene,
May rise a ray of hope serene,
The drooping soul to save ;
And FAITH may stretch her soaring wings
Beyond the reach of mortal things,
And triumph o'er the grave. .

IV.

My great Redeemer lives above ;
He from on high reveals his love,
And calms my troubled breast ;
For ever sure his promise stands :—
The soul committed to his hands
Shall find eternal rest.

V.

Although the swelling surge should roll
Destruction wide—from pole to pole,
This thought new comfort gives ;
The waves may undermine the shore,
And kingdoms sink, to rise no more,
But God, my Saviour, lives.

5.

' All nations shall call him blessed.'

Psalm lxxii. 17.

I.

BLESSED Jesus ! reign victorious,
Now ascend thy Father's throne ;
Thou art great, thy kingdom glorious,
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone ;
And the nations
Shall with joy thy sceptre own.

II.

Wide unfurl thy blood-stain'd banner,
Ride in majesty abroad,
And in this triumphant manner
Spread the conquests of thy word,
Till all nations
Own thee as their rightful Lord.

III.

Sin, with all its desolations,
Then—at thy approach—shall flee ;
While, from distant climes and nations,
Incense shall ascend to thee :
All the nations
In thy service shall agree.

IV.

Come then, Lord ! in all thy glory,
Hasten that millennial day—
When thy foes shall bow before thee,
Or in terror shrink away ;
Let the nations
Now behold its dawning ray.

6.

*'Here we have no continuing city, but we seek
one to come.'*

Hebrews xiii. 14.

I.

How vain is all beneath the skies !
How transient every earthly bliss !
How slender all the fondest ties
That bind us to a world like this !

II.

The evening cloud, the morning dew,
The withering grass, the fading flower,
Of earthly hopes, are emblems true—
The glory of a passing hour.

III.

But though earth's fairest blossoms die,
And all beneath the skies is vain,
There ~~is~~ a land whose confines lie
Beyond the reach of care and pain.

IV.

Then let the hope of joys to come
Dispel our cares and chase our fears !
If God be our's, we are travelling home,
Though passing through a vale of tears.

7.

REDEEMING GRACE.

2 Corinthians viii. 9.

I.

FROM worlds of everlasting light,
In pity to our race,
The Saviour—downward bent his flight,
Wing'd by REDEEMING GRACE.

II.

He laid his heavenly glories by,
And suffered in our place,
That we might raise our triumphs high,
And sing REDEEMING GRACE.

III.

In all the hours of earthly wo,
This thought our fears shall chase ;—
To worlds of endless bliss we go,
Saved by REDEEMING GRACE.

IV.

Immortal spirits, round the throne,
With sacred rapture trace
The love which God to us hath shown,
Through his REDEEMING GRACE.

V.

And when, with all that glorious throng,
We bow before his face,
The theme of our eternal song
Shall be REDEEMING GRACE.

8.

*'In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall
direct thy paths.'*

Proverbs iii. 6.

I.

IN all our ways,
A God of grace
Displays his guardian care;
His heavenly love,
Our thoughts above,
Defends from every snare.

II.

While tempests last,
From every blast
Our God is our defence;
Nor will we fear
While he is near,
But trust his providence.

9.

' This is my friend.'

Canticles v. 16.

I.

CAN there a balm on earth be found
To heal a wounded soul ?
'Tis *friendship*, for it cheers, though all around
The waves of trouble roll.
But friends must die,
And in the grave—forsaken lie.

II.

If there be aught beneath the skies
That vies with things above,
It is *affection*, when its charms arise
From pure devoted love.
But still how vain !
Dust must return to dust again.

III.

Yet, while our earthly comforts fly,
We still retain *one* friend ;—
'Tis JESUS : while he lives we cannot die,
Nor can his friendship end.
His love shall last
When death expires, and time is past.

10.

GETHSEMANE.

Matthew xxvi. 36.

I.

THE wonders of Gethsemane
Our ransom'd souls shall sing ;
A Saviour's love the theme shall be,
Awake the trembling string !

II.

In melting cadence we'll proclaim
The pity of his heart ;
While each, who loves his sacred name,
Shall bear a tuneful part.

III.

Let *youth* the plaintive chorus swell,
While *age*, in deeper tones,
To listening spheres his griefs shall tell,—
The anguish of his groans.

IV.

For us he left his high abode,
And laid his robes aside ;
For us he bore his heavy load,
And suffered, wept, and died,

11.

WINTER.

I.

THE harvest is past,
The summer is o'er,
Stern winter commences its reign ;
The sharp northern blast,
With terrible roar,
Sweeps over the desolate plain.

II.

How quick the transition !
How rapid the flight
Of what was once beauteous and gay !
So—life is a vision,
To primeval night
Its scenes swiftly hasten away.

III.

Resembling a vapour
It passes along,
And while we behold it—it flies ;
A glimmering taper,
A tale, or a song,
It enlightens, or cheers us—then dies.

IV.

“And let it depart !”

The Christian exclaims,
(His soul fix’d on glories above ;)

“The joy of my heart
Is the rest that remains
In regions of peace and of love.”

12.

‘ The swelling of Jordan. ’

Jeremiah xix. 5.

I.

WHEN Jordan overflowed its banks,
The chosen tribes, by Joshua* led,
March’d onward in unbroken ranks,—
The ark was there, the waters fled.

II.

If Jesus* will my spirit guide,
When I approach death’s fearful stream,
I’ll venture through its highest tide,
Reposing all my trust on Him.

* These names are synonymous, each signifying A SAVIOUR.

13.

'He hath not dealt so with any nation.'

Psalm cxlvii. 20.

I.

THANKS to the Lord, who cast my lot
In Britain's favoured land !
That happy heaven-protected spot,
Where Christian temples stand.

II.

More genial climes, the earth may boast,
Where bright unclouded day
Its radiance pours along the coast
Where sweetest zephyrs play.

III.

But fragrant breezes oft have borne
A sickening tale of wo ;
And men in pagan darkness mourn,
Where brightest sun-beams glow.

IV.

Within those courts more glories shine,
And sweeter perfumes rise,
Where FAITH, and HOPE, and LOVE, combine
In holy sacrifice.

V.

Then, O my soul, adore the Lord,
And grateful anthems raise !
My heart his goodness shall record,
My lips—proclaim his praise.

14.

THE LAST REFUGE.

Mark ix. 22.

I.

REDEEMER ! canst thou condescend
To hear a helpless sinner's prayer ?
Say, canst thou such a wretch befriend,
And save him from deserved despair ?

II.

His sins, of deep and crimson die,
While they lie heavily on his breast,
To heaven aloud for vengeance cry,
And neither leave him peace nor rest.

III.

But still he makes thy grace his plea,
Thy sacred cross—his last retreat ;
Resolving, if he ruined be,—
To perish at thy mercy seat.

15.

' Lord, save me ! '

Matthew xiv. 30.

I.

QUELL the tumult of my fears,
Wipe away my flowing tears ;
Lord ! compassion dwells with thee,
Let me thy salvation see !

II.

Folly, sin, and unbelief,
Fill my soul with shame and grief ;
Unto thee for strength I cry,
Save me ! or I sink—and die.

III.

Christ's redeeming blood alone
Can for sins like mine atone ;
Nothing, but victorious grace,
Can such guilt as mine efface.

IV.

Blessed be thine holy name !
Thou canst save from deepest shame,
Bid the helpless sinner live,
And his vilest guilt forgive.

V.

Therefore on thy name I call,
And before thy footstool fall ;
Hear, O hear, my humble prayer,
Save me from deserved despair !

16.

CHRISTIAN DEVOTEDNESS.

Hebrews xii. 1.

I.

YE flattering joys of earth, farewell !
Your charms I court no more ;
Grace hath dissolv'd the attractive spell
Which bound me to your power.

II.

Your snares have oft enchain'd my mind,
And drawn my soul astray,—
And all my hopes and fears confined
To trifles of a day.

III.

But now the long enchantment ends,
To nobler things I rise ;
My soul on wings of faith ascends,
And soars beyond the skies.

17.

THE WORD OF GOD.

(Imitated from Gurnall.)

I.

O HOLY word of God most high,
What wondrous things of thee are told !
Thy precious stores may well outvie
Both India's gems, and Persia's gold.

II.

The worldling's joy, that lures the sense,
No more shall tempt from paths divine
The happy soul, whose excellence
Is drawn from springs so pure as thine.

III.

Subdued by thy victorious arm,
Death, the last foe, shrinks back and flies ;
Its pains are softened by thy charm,
And at thy smile its terror dies.

IV.

Serpents and fiends—of earth or hell,
Awed by thy presence, all withdraw,
And leave their holds, for thee to dwell,
And there proclaim thy matchless law.

V.

The torturing fires of conscious guilt
Are quench'd by mercy's flowing tide,
Whilst thou dost tell whose blood was spilt—
Whose hands were pierced—whose feet—
whose side.

VI.

Ev'n now, on wings of faith and love,
Dost thou transport the soul to rest ;
For, with the hope of joys above,
The very pains of life are blest.

18.

RECONCILIATION.

Ephesians ii. 13.

I.

Our souls were once far off
From happiness and God,
And heirs of everlasting wrath,
The downward path we trod.

II.

But Christ hath brought us nigh,
For us his blood was shed ;
We now aspire to worlds on high,
By his good Spirit led.

19.

'Why art thou cast down?'

Psalm xlii. 5.

I.

MOURNING spirit! calm thy fears,
Banish all thine anxious grief;
God's own hand shall dry thy tears,
Heavenly mercy—bring relief.

II.

What, though clouds and darkness rise,
And thy Saviour's face obscure?—
What, though dimness veil thine eyes?
Still his love remains secure.

III.

So—when clouds obscure the sky,
Sun-beams shine with rays as bright,
'Midst the starry worlds on high,
As when darting on our sight.

IV.

Soon the healthful gale shall blow,
Wafting all these clouds away;
Soon the rising sun shall show
Beams of everlasting day.

20.

THE CHRISTIAN'S GRAVE.

1 Thessalonians iv. 13, 14.

I.

No more shall hopeless tears be shed,
While o'er a Christian's grave we weep,
For Christ is risen from the dead
As the first-fruits of them that sleep.

II.

Since we believe that Jesus died
And rose according to his word,
The terrors of the grave subside—
He paid the debt which we incurr'd.

III.

By dying he abolish'd death,
And brought eternal life to light;
And though his saints must yield their breath,
Their death is precious in his sight.

IV.

While we their lonely graves survey,
And recollection bids us weep,
Faith hears the risen Saviour say—
“ They are not dead, they only sleep.” *

* Matthew ix. 24. John xi. 11.

21.

THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH.

Psalm xxvii. 1-6.

I.

THE Lord is my light and salvation,
Then whom shall I fear ?
Secure and triumphant my station,—
Jehovah is near.

II.

Though hosts were encamping around me,
I'll not be afraid ;
Mine enemies cannot confound me,
For God is mine aid.

III.

In times of distress and commotion,
My soul shall abide
Where the voice of enlightened devotion
Bids trouble subside.

IV.

The Lord, in my trouble shall hide me,—
He ever is nigh,
To his sacred pavilion shall guide me,
And raise me on high.

V.

The offerings of glad adoration
To him shall ascend ;
For he is my light and salvation,
Now—world without end.

22.

THE ADVENT.

Isaiah ix. 6, 7.

I.

WELCOME bright auspicious morn !
Unto us A CHILD is born ;
Care and grief away be driven !
Unto us A SON is given.

II.

He the government sustains,
O'er a happy world he reigns ;
WONDERFUL his name shall be—
FATHER OF ETERNITY.

III.

Kings shall bow before his nod,
For he reigns—THE MIGHTY GOD—
COUNSELLOR—THE PRINCE OF PEACE ;
His dominion ne'er shall cease.

23.

THE CRUCIFIXION.

Matthew xxvii. 51, 52.

I.

THE awful deed is done,
The Lamb of God is slain ;
In darkness hides the noon-day sun,
The vail is rent in twain.

II.

All nature shrinks with dread,
The rocks and mountains quake ;
The opening graves disclose their dead,
The sleeping saints awake.

III.

My soul, with grateful awe,
Surveys the wondrous scene,
For through the threatening storm she saw
A ray of hope serene.

IV.

The Saviour's bleeding veins
Full satisfaction gave ;
He soon shall break death's iron chains,
And triumph o'er the grave.

V.

Though darkness veils the skies,
This thought may courage give ;—
My faith upon his cross relies,
He died that I might live.

24.

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Mark xiv. 26.

I.

ERE from this table we depart,
Let every voice and every heart,
Unite to praise His holy name
Who bore the cross—despised the shame.

II.

He loved his people to the end,
And will his holy Spirit send,
To show the footsteps where he trod,
And thus conduct their souls to God.

III.

We see the path, we love the way,
We hear his voice, and we obey ;
And seek, by faith, that happy shore
Where we shall meet to part no more.

25.

THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH.

Romans vii. 15-24.

I.

I CANNOT do the things I would,
Though bound by many a sacred vow;
I own the law is just and good,
Yet do the things I disallow.

II.

On wings of faith I fain would rise,
But guilt, an adamant chain,
Arrests my progress to the skies,
And drags me down to earth again.

III.

In this polluted flesh of mine
Dwells nothing that is truly good;
I long for holiness divine,
But cannot do the things I would.

IV.

Yet shall my soul her course maintain,
And struggle hard for victory,
Till death shall break the galling chain,
And set the weary captive free.

26.

THE FIGHT OF FAITH.

1 Timothy vi. 12.

I.

THOU Captain of salvation !
Teach us our arms to wield ;
Then bid us take our station
Upon the battle-field.

II.

We see thy banner waving
With martial fire we glow ;
The fear of death outbraving,
We long to face the foe.

III.

But still we feel our weakness,
Unless the Lord is near ;
Then courage blends with meekness,
And faith—with holy fear.

IV.

His strength our souls inspiring,
We'll boldly take the field,
Till all our foes, retiring,
The palm of victory yield.

27.

FOR A SUNDAY-SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.

CHILDREN.

I.

GRACIOUS Saviour! bend thine ear,
Listen to our humble lays;
While with trembling hope and fear
Babes and sucklings sing thy praise.

II.

Didst not thou, when here below,
Bid young children come to thee?
Then, to *us* thy mercy show,
Let us thy salvation see.

III.

May thy blessing, Lord! descend
On our teachers whom we love;
And may we, when time shall end,
Meet them in thy courts above.

CONGREGATION.

IV.

Gracious Saviour! bend thine ear,
Listen to their humble lays;
May these children in thy fear
Live through all their future days.

V.

Let not sin's deceitful art
Tempt their youthful feet astray ;
May they choose the better part,
Mark, and keep the narrow way.

CHILDREN AND CONGREGATION.

VI.

Then, when time shall be no more,
All shall meet around thy throne ;
Join to celebrate thy power,
And give thanks to thee alone.

28.

THE PLAGUE OF THE HEART.

1 Kings viii. 28.

I.

IN the gospel of Jesus is found
A cure for the plague of the heart ;
The gifts of redemption abound,
And health to the spirit impart.
Faith fixes her eyes on the cross,
Rejoices in pardoning love,
Esteems earth's best treasures but dross,
And rises to mansions above.

II.

The soul that has tasted and felt,
The merciful kindness of God ;
Though in darkness and death it had dwelt,
Or the paths of destruction had trod ;
Beholds the bright dawning of day,
And triumphs o'er death and despair ;
To paradise hastens away,
And finds its inheritance there.

III.

O, make that inheritance mine !
From ruin deliver my soul !
On darkness and misery shine,
And let me have faith to be whole !
O Lord ! thou art mighty to save,
Thy power and thy glory display !
Then, ransom'd from death and the grave,
I'll triumph in heavenly day.

29.

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE SERVICE.

I.

O God, in whom we live !
We bow before thy throne ;
And ceaseless honours there we give,
For thou art God alone.

II.

In mercy condescend
To hear our midnight lays,
While we, to our unchanging friend,
An EBEN-EZAR raise.

III.

Amidst the shafts of death,
Unwounded still we stand ;
Thou hast preserved our fleeting breath,—
Our times are in thy hand.

IV.

Thy goodness and thy power,
The closing year hath shown ;
And here, its last departing hour
We spend before thy throne.

II.

The soul that has tasted and felt,
The merciful kindness of God ;
Though in darkness and death it had dwelt,
Or the paths of destruction had trod ;
Beholds the bright dawning of day,
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Thou hast preserved our fleeting breath,—
Our times are in thy hand.

IV.

Thy goodness and thy power,
The closing year hath shown ;
And here, its last departing hour
We spend before thy throne.

III.

Our vows, O Lord ! we here renew,
Resolved, whatever others do,
That we will love thy glorious name,
Will bear the cross—despise the shame.

IV.

Our souls, to thee we now commend,
To save, establish, and defend ;
Be thou our portion and our all,
And ever keep us, lest we fall !

V.

The year, which has this hour begun,
Shall then its course serenely run ;—
Or, if that year our last should be,
Its wings shall bear our souls to thee.

32.

RESIGNATION.

Matthew xxvi. 29.

I.

FORGIVE, O Lord ! the rising sigh
That dares dispute thy will,
And bid my mourning soul rely
On thee—contented still—

II.

Though light retires, and storms arise,
And earthly joys depart,—
Though hope declines, and comfort dies,
And sorrow breaks my heart.

III.

O, for a soul resign'd to thee,
And fill'd with love divine,
Instructed at Gethsemane
To do *thy* will, not mine!

IV.

Thy word of everlasting grace
Shall hope and comfort bring,
And bid, from darkness and distress,
Immortal glory spring.

V.

My Father will supply each loss,
In every trial save;
The hand that led me to the cross
Shall lead me to the grave.

33.

THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH.

Psalm xxvii. 13, 14.

I.

UNLESS I had believ'd to see
The goodness of the Lord,
And—rescued from my misery,
That goodness to record,—

II.

My soul had now in silence dwelt—*
In darkness and despair ;—
But FAITH her sure foundation felt,
And placed reliance there.

III.

The tempest now is lull'd to rest,
The cheerful light returns ;
My heart, of heavenly peace possess'd,
With holy rapture burns.

IV.

Let them that wait upon the Lord
Bid all their fears depart ;
His mercy shall their faith reward,
And strengthen every heart.

* Psalm xciv. 17.

34.

THE CAPTIVITY OF JUDAH.

Psalm cxxxvii. 1-7.

I.

By the rivers of Babylon, mournfully sitting,
Remembering Zion with grief,
Our thoughts of past pleasures like visions were
fitting,
And tears were our only relief.

II.

Our harps on the willows in silence were hanging,
Around stood our merciless foes,
In the pride of their triumph, their captives
haranguing,
And mocking our bitterest woes.

III.

In vain may they ask for the praises of Zion,
While far from our peaceable home
Our children are pining in fetters of iron,
And we in captivity roam.

IV.

If e'er we forget these sad feelings to cherish,
As sons of the free and the brave,
May our reason forsake us,—our memory
perish,—
Our shame be conceal'd in the grave!

35.

THE TREE OF LIFE.

Revelation ii. 7.

I.

THE tree of life in Eden stands,
And bears immortal fruit ;
Beneath its shade our fainting bands
Expiring strength recruit.

II.

The Cherubim, who kept the way,
Have sheathed their flaming sword ;*
And all, who Zion's King obey,
Find paradise restored.

36.

THE DAWN OF THE SABBATH.

Hebrews x. 25.

I.

WITHIN the house of prayer,
On this thine holy day,
May we, O Lord ! those blessings share
For which thy children pray.

* Genesis iii. 24.

II.

Our supplications aid,
May fervent zeal abound ;
Nor let the cares of earth invade
This consecrated ground !

III.

Assist our feeble lays,
Let rapture tune each heart—
While to the tribute of thy praise
We bear an humble part !

IV.

And when thy word we hear
May we the truth receive,
And prove, by piety sincere,
That we that truth believe !

V.

Then—when these holy days
For us return no more,
Will we renew our songs of praise
On Canaan's happy shore.

37.

THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS.

Hebrews i. 15.

I.

THE spirits of departed saints,
Descending from the skies,
Smile on the pilgrim—when he faints,
And bid his courage rise.

II.

They once, within this vale of tears,
Pursued their weary way ;
But now, surviving all their fears,
They dwell in heavenly day.

III.

Amidst their bright angelic bands,
Full many a long-lost friend—
In blissful expectation stands
To see our journey end.

IV.

From earth's dark region, to the throne
Where saints their homage pay,
Some kindred soul, already known,
May guide our wondrous way,—

V.

Or lead us to those happy bowers
Where deathless spirits throng,
And—uncontroll'd by fleeting hours,
Pour their unceasing song.

VI.

Thou God of angels! hear our prayer,
Protect us by thy grace,
Till we their sacred raptures share,
And dwell before thy face.

38.

THE WATER OF LIFE.

Revelation xxii. 1. 17.

I.

WE hear the invitation
Which bids the thirsty go—
Where streams of free salvation
Like crystal rivers flow.

II.

The welcome call attending,
Thither our souls repair,
And o'er the fountain bending—
Find sweet refreshment there.

39.

THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN NEITHER
VAIN NOR UNSATISFACTORY.

Romans xiv. 8.

I.

Is life a vapour of the fen
That flees before the rising day?—
It bathes the drooping flower, and then
In heavenly splendour melts away.

II.

Is life a swiftly-gliding stream
That hastens to its ocean-bed?—
Although its course so rapid seem,
Its passing waves luxuriance spread.

III.

Is life a tale that soon is told?—
Yet may its wondrous subject be
Remembered when the sun grows old—
A theme that suits eternity.

END OF THE SECOND PART.

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WORLD, Jan. 2, 1828.

